



bbitf 2023

Bhullung-Bhuthur
International Theatre Festival

ভুল্লুং-বুথুৰ আন্তঃৰাষ্ট্ৰীয় নাট-মহোৎসৱ
২০২৩

GUWAHATI | ASSAM | INDIA

4 –10 October 2023



Organised by
AANK_A Creative Line



In collaboration with
Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra Society
Govt. of Assam

The Festival

AANK- A Creative Line, a theatre group from Guwahati, Assam, India is embarking this year on an ambitious project, *The Bhullung-Bhuthur International Theatre Festival 2023*, with the theme *Theatre for Harmony*. A remarkable endeavour, organized in collaboration with the *Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra Society*. This festival seeks to celebrate the inseparable relationship between rivers and human civilization, with a particular focus on the Brahmaputra, the lifeline of Assam, India. The festival will be held in three stages.

The First phase

Performances of Plays

Date 4th and 5th October, 2023

Time 4.15PM to 7.30PM

(Daily two performances)

Venue Sri Sri Madhavadeva International Auditorium of Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra Society, Guwahati, Assam

The Second phase

Advance Physical Theatre Workshop

Date 6th to 10th October, 2023

Time 2.00PM to 7.00PM (Daily)

Venue Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra Society (This workshop will be lead by **M.G.M. Safeer**, Internationally renowned theatre practitioner from Sri Lanka.)

Theatre Forum

Topic Theatre in Different Countries: Prospective and Challenges

Date 8th October, 2023

Venue Guwahati College, Bamunimaidam Guwahati, Assam

Time 10.30AM-1.00PM

Moderator Mr. Nayan Prasad/ Dr. Mrinal Jyoti Goswami

Speakers Dr. Ajay Joshi, Indian Fulbright-Nehru Academic and Professional Excellence Scholar (2018-19), Theatre Researcher, Pune, India

M.G.M. Safeer, CEO, Inter Act Art Theatre Institute, Colombo, Sri Lanka.



The Third phase:

Environmental Sensitisation Workshop

Date 7th October, 2023

Venue Mayang Anchalik College, Rajamayang, Morigaon

Time 10.00AM to 12.30PM

Date 9th October, 2023

Venue B. Borooh College, Ulubari, Guwahati.

Time 10.00AM to 12.30PM

Knowledge Partner Aaranyak

Assam, situated in the north-eastern part of India is blessed with natural beauty and cultural diversity, two major rivers, numerous tributaries, mountains, forests, and plains. The Brahmaputra, known by various names like *Burlung-Buthur*, *Lohitya*, *Mahabahu* etc., has shaped the socio-economic and cultural identity of the people of Assam and carries great significance in their social life. In a lecture by Bishnu Prasad Rabha, "Asomiya Kristir Samu Abhash" (A Brief Overview of Assamese Culture), he emphasized the message of symbolic harmony of the Brahmaputra and mentioned that it was called "Bhullung-Bhuthur".

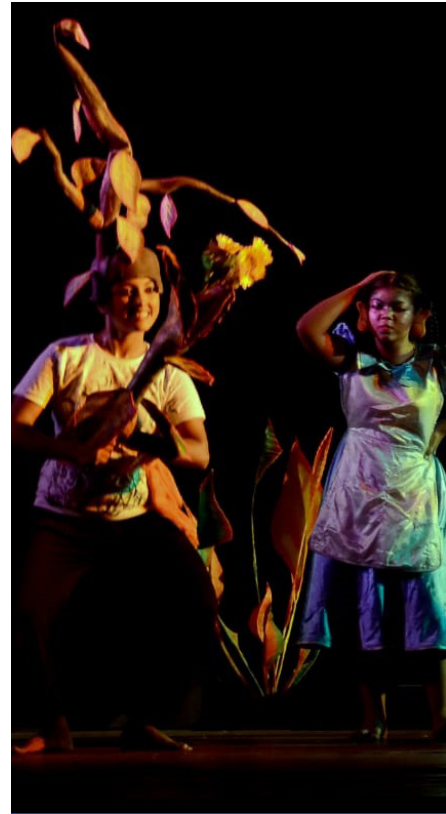
Furthermore, Assam has a rich tradition of folk theatrical performances that have been integral to its cultural heritage since ancient times. These performances have fostered unity, understanding, and empathy among the people, transcending cultural, social, and linguistic barriers. In the same way, Sankardeva's *Naat/Bhaona* has been a testimony to the power of creative work to promote harmony in society and sing the praises of humanity. This proves that culture can proclaim the sound of harmony in society.

Considering the present global scenario with its various challenges and instabilities, marginalized communities are disproportionately affected. Theatre emerges at this juncture as a potent tool for promoting peaceful coexistence and driving social change. The belief that through theatre, we can build a more harmonious and unified society with the triumph of humanity serves as the driving force behind *the Bhullung-Bhuthur International Theatre Festival 2023*.

This festival aims to harness the transformative power of theatre to bring people together, celebrating diversity and creating a more empathetic and compassionate society. By highlighting the connection between rivers and civilization, it emphasizes the need to protect and preserve these natural resources for the substantial development of all.

The Bhullung-Bhuthur International Theatre Festival 2023 aspires to be a global platform where artists from different cultural backgrounds can showcase their creative expressions centered around the theme of harmony. Through performances, workshops, and discussions, the festival will foster a deeper appreciation for the importance of cultural heritage and its role in promoting unity and understanding.

In conclusion, *AANK-A Creative Line's* vision for *the Bhullung-Bhuthur International Theatre Festival 2023* is a testament to the belief that theatre and cultural practices can shape a harmonious and unified society, transcending barriers and paving the way for positive social change. By celebrating the rivers and cultural heritage of Assam, this festival aims to inspire people to work towards a more compassionate and empathetic world, where humanity triumphs above all else.





Scope of the Festival

The Bhullung-Bhuthur International Theatre Festival 2023, celebrates the interplay between rivers and human civilization, focusing on the Brahmaputra in Assam. It includes performances, a physical theatre workshop, theatre forum and an environmental sensitization program. By uniting diverse artists, workshops, and discussions, the festival aims to enhance cultural appreciation, foster unity, and inspire positive social change. This ambitious occasion foresees theatre as a means to foster harmony, rising above worldwide challenges, and fostering a world of compassion and empathy. It aims to nurture cultural heritage and humanity, engaging an estimated 5000 attendees in person and around 50,000 more through online channels.



Objectives

The main objectives of the festival are:

This theatre festival wants to celebrate the spirit of "Amrit Nadiya" as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav by exploring the connection between the creative dimensions of human culture and river.

Seeks to celebrate the cultural significance of the Brahmaputra river and its relationship with human civilization through theatrical performances and workshops.

To promote harmony and unity among diverse communities by utilizing theatre as a powerful tool to address global challenges, fostering empathy, understanding, and social change.

By organizing performances, workshops, and discussions, the festival aims to highlight the vital connection between rivers and human culture, inspiring awareness and environmental sensitization for the preservation of natural resources.

The festival envisions becoming a global platform that brings together artists from different backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives to showcase their creative expressions, fostering appreciation for cultural heritage and contributing to a more compassionate and empathetic world.



About the Group

AANK_A Creative Line, founded with a deep commitment to Assam's cultural landscape, is a pioneering force in redefining theatre and performance. Since its inception in 2008, the group has been dedicated to unearthing uncharted perspectives within the realm of theatre. Its journey commenced with the impactful production *Xunor Xing Thoka Ghariyalar Choku*, marking the inception of its cultural voyage. With an impressive repertoire of nine significant plays, *AANK_A Creative Line* has continually pushed boundaries and evolved its artistic narrative.

Notably, the group has garnered international recognition through thought-provoking performances like *Imaan Imaan Paani*, *Erikoti-Mirikoti_the Butterfly Effect*, *Bhukar Xadhu_The Myth of Hunger*, *Etheror Irika_Ethereal Epoch*, *Eréndira's Metamorphosis*, etc. which transcended borders and captivated audiences in India and abroad. *AANK_A Creative Line* serves as a beacon of innovation, breathing new life into Assam's cultural heritage and seamlessly merging tradition with contemporary expression. The group's artistic endeavours delve into unexplored territories, sparking conversations and engaging audiences in a profound exploration of human experiences. As a trailblazer in the theatre scene, *AANK_A Creative Line* continues to shape the artistic landscape, leaving an indelible mark on both local and global stages.

Contact Us M +91 94350 16840 E mrinaljyoti@gmail.com

Festival Team

Festival Director

Festival Secretary

Publicity and media designer

Festival Co-ordinators

Festival Crew

Advisory Team

Dr. Mrinal Jyoti Goswami
Dr. Manabendra Sarma and Dr. Halim Hussain
Dr. Sanjib Borah
Mrs. Manaswinee Mahanta, Mr. Jintu Thakuria,
Miss Oinau Jengrai, Miss Ashramika,
Dr. Junmoni Gogoi, Dr. Smriti Rekha Bhuyan
Mr. Nipon Borpatra Gohain, Mr. Kinkor Borah,
Miss Rashmi Sarma, Mr. Bhaskar Jyoti Borah,
Mrs. Namrata Sarma

Mr. Nuruddin Ahmad, Mr. Utpal Datta, Mr. Nayan Prasad, Mr. Sibanu Borah,
Mr. Tarun Chandra Kalita, Dr. Bipuljyoti Saikia, Mr. Gopal Jalan, Mr. Kishor Kr Das,
Dr. Pratibha Sarmah, Prof. Pranjit Bora, Prof. Joydeep Baruah, Mr. Indrajit Das,

bbtf23

Knowledge Partner



Aaranyak, Assam



Guwahati College



B Barooah College



Mayang Anchalik College



Sonapur College

Academic Partners



// Bhullung Bhuttur
International Theatre Festival



// bbtf2023



// bhullungbhuttur

email: info@aank.org

www.aank.org